

As a member of the **Network of International Education Associations (NIEA)**, **FAUBAI** disseminates this statement, which reflects the commitment of all members of the network.

Network of International Education Associations, NIEA

STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Preamble

The main stated purpose of the Network of International Education Associations, NIEA, a non-profit, non-government association is “*to advance international higher education to improve the quality of higher education and research*”. The Network advances the global learning of post-secondary education organizations through the exchange of information and dialog, advocacy for international education, professional development, and the discovery of new approaches to international education.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on Higher Education and on Internationalization of Higher Education in particular, causing a significant decrease in scheduled internationalization conferences, meetings and activities. Associations, quick to adapt, have increased online engagement and activities during this period.

We, the members of the NIEA, recognise that some measures implemented by national governments and Higher Education Institutions, limiting international higher education, were absolutely necessary to respond to the pandemic and appropriately implemented. At the same time, we believe that the solutions to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic require international collaboration and that limiting measures should be time bound. We reaffirm the importance of international higher education to our mutually beneficial and sustainable future, as international collaboration is essential to finding solutions to global problems, which manifest differently in our local contexts. Therefore, we call for:

A. National governments to:

- **Ensure higher education entities are considered key stakeholders in achieving sustainable development:** adopt a holistic approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated Sustainable Development Goals and to recognise the importance of international higher education in helping to achieve these goals.
- **Support international higher education and research:** ensure that higher education and research entities are appropriately funded and that regulatory frameworks enable international cooperation, avoid unnecessary obstacles to progress, while simultaneously assuring quality.

* The full list of NIEA members is provided in Annex 1

- **Increase access to international higher education opportunities globally:** adopt a holistic approach including all education levels and all disciplines and a coordinated effort by national governments.
- **Ensure equality:** adopt inclusive national strategies for internationalization of higher education, eliminating discrimination against students, teachers and researchers based on their nationality, race, ethnicity, socio-economic background, gender, sexual orientation, political or religious beliefs or any other aspect of their identity. Furthermore, ensure there is no discrimination among different types of higher education institutions.
- **Increase openness to and promote innovation in cooperation in research and internationalization of higher education,** especially in the immediate post-COVID-19 pandemic period, with the aim of mitigating the effects of the crisis on students and higher education institutions.

B. Higher Education Institutions to:

- **Promote and participate in cross-sectoral collaboration:** increase partnerships between a range of different types of higher education institutions and other stakeholders working in higher education, taking advantage of new forms of cooperation, including collaborative online learning programmes (COIL). Partnerships should promote and facilitate research on global issues, promote and offer training in global citizenship skills, and involve local and global communities;
- **Improve knowledge development and dissemination:** increase international collaboration and openness in the development and dissemination of new knowledge to serve all of humanity, especially the worlds' poorest individuals and communities;
- **Increase diversity and eliminate discrimination:** ensure that diverse multi-faceted and newly voiced perspectives on problems and solutions inform our approach to the development of (new) knowledge, in our respective contexts. Actively work to discover, uncover and dismantle implicit systems of oppression within institutions. By eliminating discrimination, ensure the benefits and opportunities offered by international higher education are more equitably shared.
- **Develop co-curricular programmes and implement Internationalization at Home:** foster responsible, caring and compassionate graduates by increasing intentional programmes in inter-cultural competency, global citizenry and anti-racism.
- **Make an Institutional commitment to society:** increase the institutional commitment to a purposeful internationalisation of higher education; a process improving the quality of all aspects of higher education in each institution, each society and ultimately, contributing to the creation of a better world for all.

July 23rd, 2020

List of NIEA members

- Associação Brasileira para Educação Internacional / Brazilian Association for International Education (FAUBAI)
<http://faubai.org.br/>
- Asociación Mexicana para la Educación Internacional / Mexican Association for International Education (AMPEI)
<https://www.ampei.org.mx/>
- Association of International Education Administrators / Associação de Administradores de Educação Internacional (AIEA)
<https://www.aieaworld.org/>
- Asia Pacific Association for International Education / Associação da Ásia e do Pacífico para Educação Internacional (APAIE)
<https://www.apaie2019.org/about/apaie>
- Canadian Bureau for International Education / Escritório Canadense para Educação Internacional (CBIE)
<https://cbie.ca/>
- Consortium for North American Higher Education Collaboration
Consórcio para Colaboração de Educação Superior da América do Norte (CONAHEC)
<https://conahec.org/>
- International Education Association of Australia / Associação de Educação Internacional de Austrália (IEAA)
<https://www.ieaa.org.au/>
- International Education Association of South Africa / Associação de Educação Internacional da África do Sul (IEASA)
<https://www.ieasa.studysa.org/>
- Institute of International Education / Instituto de Educação Internacional (IIE)
<https://www.iie.org/>
- Japan Network for International Education / Rede Japonesa para Educação Internacional (JAFSA)
<https://www.jafsa.org/>
- Korean Association of Foreign Student Administrators
Associação Coreana de Administradores de Estudantes Estrangeiros (KAFSA)
<http://www.kafsa.kr/>
- Association of International Educators / Associações de Educadores Internacionais (NAFSA)
<https://www.nafsa.org/>
- Red de Cooperación Internacional de las Universidades Nacionales (RedCIUN) del Consejo Interuniversitario Nacional (CIN)
Rede de Cooperação Internacional das Universidades Nacionais da República Argentina (RedCIUN) do Conselho Interuniversitário Nacional (CIN)
<https://www.cin.edu.ar/>
- European Association for International Education / Associação Europeia para Educação Internacional (EAIE)
<https://www.eaie.org/>
- Inter-american Organization for Higher Education / Organização Universitária Interamericana (OUI-IOHE)
<https://oui-iohe.org/en/>

Coordinator NIEA

- International Association of Universities / Associação Internacional de Universidades (IAU)
<https://iau-aiu.net/>